

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Held on Wednesday, 20 May 1998, immediately following the Closed Session,
in Room AD-308, Loyola Campus

Attendance

Present: Mr. Reginald K. Groome, *Chairman*, Ms. Rebecca Aldworth, Dr. Tannis Arbuckle-Maag, Dr. Michael Brian, Mrs. Marianne Donaldson, Dr. Leonard Ellen, Dr. Terrill Fancott, Mr. Leo Goldfarb, Mr. George Hanna, Mr. Peter Howlett, Dr. Lawrence Kryzanowski, Dr. Frederick Lowy, *Rector and Vice-Chancellor*, Sister Eileen McIlwaine Ph.D., Mr. Donald W. McNaughton, Mr. John Parisella, Mrs. Miriam Roland, Dr. Elizabeth Saccá, Mr. Robert Sonin, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg, *Vice-Chairwoman*

Officers of the University: Prof. Marcel Danis, Mr. Charles Emond, Mr. Larry English, Dr. Jack Lightstone

Observer: Me Pierre Frégeau

Absent: Dr. Francesco Bellini, Mr. Alain Benedetti, Dr. William Byers, Mr. Ronald Corey, Mr. Eric Molson, *Chancellor*, Mr. David Hinton, Mr. Paul Ivanier, Mr. Ronald Lawless, Mr. George Lengvari, Mrs. Hazel Mah, Mr. Jacques Ménard, *Vice-Chairman*, Mr. Brian Neysmith, Mr. Dino Nizzola, Ms. Susan O'Connell, Mr. Benoit Pelland, Mr. Jean-François Plamondon, Mr. Richard Renaud, Mr. Robert Simioni, Mr. Brian Steck, Mr. Jonathan Wener, Mrs. Susan Woods

Guests: Mr. John Economides, *Governor Emeritus*

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES

BG-98-4-D22	Letter from the Faculty of Commerce and Administration regarding proposed Executive MBA fee increase
BG-98-4-D23	Letter from Legal Counsel regarding signing authority

1. Call to Order

The Open Session was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

1.1 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman waived his remarks.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous meeting (15 April 1998)

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Donaldson, Howlett), it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

R98-26 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous regular meeting of the Board, held on 15 April 1998, be approved.*

2. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Remarks on 1997-98 from student Governors

3.1 Mr. Plamondon was absent.

3.2 Mr. Robert Sonin, President of the Arts and Science Federation of Associations, spoke. He said he hoped his remarks would not be perceived as negative, as he had high regard for Concordia and had benefitted greatly from his experience here.

Mr. Sonin said the Arts and Science students were preoccupied, during 1997-98, with the prospect of rising education costs. He pointed out that a large and growing number of students hold jobs while studying, and many have family responsibilities as well. For these students, Mr. Sonin said, financial pressures can be overwhelming.

He also expressed concern that universities, in their efforts to economize and meet the growing demand for job training, were sacrificing certain principles by narrowing the scope of academic program. Mr. Sonin suggested that overly specialized curricula would put the teaching of effective thinking skills in second place, after the teaching of the mechanics of each discipline. He noted that these developments were often justified in the context of “accountability” to the government and to society, but asserted that universities, having attracted the “best and the brightest”, should also exercise a leadership role in society.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Sonin for his comments, adding that the Capital Campaign promised to improve prospects for financial assistance to needy students.

4. Approval to increase tuition fees for the Executive MBA

In answer to a question, Dr. Kryzanowski said normal enrolment in the Executive MBA was twenty-five to thirty students, most of whom are sponsored by their employers. He explained that the new fee structure consolidates, in a single fee, costs previously “added on” to the tuition fee. Dr. Lightstone noted that the change would confer a tax benefit on the payer.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Kryzanowski, Hanna), was CARRIED with two opposed (Aldworth, Saccá):

R98-27 *WHEREAS the tuition fee for the two-year Executive Master’s of Business Administration (EMBA) program was established at the present level of \$26,500. in 1994; and*

WHEREAS the Faculty of Commerce and Administration has recommended an increase of the fee to \$34,000., which would combine the tuition fee and the cost of an

international study trip, and contribute toward improving the quality of computer technology and services available to EMBA students;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the fee payable by students enrolled in the EMBA program be established at \$34,000. beginning with registration into the 1998-2000 class.

5. Approval of revisions to the Signing Authority Policy

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lowy, Howlett), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R98-28 *WHEREAS the policy entitled “Regulations relating to the Approval of Contracts and Signing Authority” was adopted by the Board of Governors at its meeting of 20 December 1995 and revised on 16 October 1996;*

WHEREAS the University’s Legal Counsel, Me Bram Freedman, has recommended textual modifications to reflect administrative changes arising from the University’s continuing structural reorganization;

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Governors adopt the revised text of the “Regulations relating to the Approval of Contracts and Signing Authority”, as it is set out in Document BG-98-4-D23.

6. Progress Report on the Capital Campaign

In the absence of Campaign Chair Ronald Corey, Dr. Ellen reported to the Board. He reported that about \$43.5 million, almost 80% of the Campaign objective, had been raised to date.

The Leadership Gifts category, Dr. Ellen said, was symptomatic of the very positive response to Concordia’s Campaign; for examples, he cited \$400,000 for the library acquisitions endowment from the Macdonald Stewart Foundation and \$350,000 for scholarships from the Toronto Dominion Bank. A verbal commitment of \$350,000 for the National Diploma Programme in Community Economic Development had just been received from the Bank of Nova Scotia. In Toronto, Governor Brian Steck had approached a potential donor regarding needs associated with the Commerce and Administration Faculty’s Centre for Instructional Technology.

In the Major Gifts Division, Ms. Marianna Simeone and Mr. Louis Tanguay were working aggressively. A breakfast meeting with canvassers was scheduled for 28 May 1998.

The Special Gifts Division was extremely active, Dr. Ellen said. In order to keep momentum high among the Division’s fifty-seven canvassers, a baseball evening had been planned for 16 June at the Olympic Stadium.

In the Alumni and Friends Division, a decision had been made to undertake a marketing strategy which targets graduates from Loyola College, Sir George Williams, and

Concordia University separately. Ms. Laura Wells, the Interim Director of Annual Giving, had developed a plan which envisages a Division launch, phone-mail programme, direct mail solicitation, personal canvass, volunteer phonathons and an update of the alumni records database.

7. Reports of the Standing Committees

7.1 Benefits and Pension Committees

In the absence of the Committees' Chair, Mr. Ron Lawless, Me Danis reported that both Committees met on 13 May 1998. He said there was nothing requiring the attention of the Board at the present time.

8. Report of the Rector

Dr. Lowy reported on several subjects. His remarks are summarized below.

(i) Dr. Lowy reported on Concordians' recent travels in China, which included a visit with Concordia alumni in Hong Kong; attendance at centenary festivities at Beijing University; and participation in the Canadian-Chinese University Presidents' Meeting held in Nanjing, where Dean Martin Singer was the keynote speaker.

In Beijing, Dr. Lowy said, he was accompanied by Dr. Mary Kay Lowy, Dr. Balbir Sahni (Director of the Centre for International Academic Cooperation), Dean Martin Singer (Faculty of Arts and Science), Dean Mohsen Anvari (Faculty of Commerce and Administration), and Dr. Dale Doreen (Director of the Aviation MBA program). The Rector noted that Chancellor Eric Molson was also in the capital, but not as part of the Concordia delegation.

There was great interest in Concordia's business management, financial services and communications expertise. New partnerships were established, including a general agreement of cooperation with the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a CIDA-sponsored five-year agreement with Southeast University in Xiamen. Existing relationships were strengthened; Concordia was looking forward to continuing collaboration with the Beijing Broadcasting Institute and the Beijing Petroleum Managers Training Institute. CIDA funding had recently been confirmed for a project involving Concordia's Faculty of Commerce and Administration and the Centre for Canada-Asia Business Relations, as well as some of the key players in Canada's financial sector.

(ii) The January 1998 visit to the Middle East had had important benefits for Concordia: an agreement had recently been signed with CAE Electronics to enable graduate students from Ain-Shams University and Cairo University to work at CAE while pursuing graduate studies at Concordia.

(iii) A thorough analysis of certain options outlined by the Advisory Task Force on the Revitalization of the Loyola Campus was underway. The Rector said he expected to have a recommendation to present to the Board in June.

(iv) The Rector notified the Board that he would also propose, at the June meeting, that the Concert Hall located on the Loyola Campus be named for renowned Canadian pianist Oscar Peterson. The naming, at the request of the Faculty of Fine Arts, would

recognize the support shown to the Music Department by Mr. Peterson, who was awarded the Loyola Medal by Concordia in 1997.

9. Report of the Vice-Rectors and the Chief Financial Officer

9.1 Provost and Vice-Rector, Research, Jack Lightstone reported as follows:

(i) Concordia recently signed academic cooperation agreements with two universities in the Palestinian territories and one in Israel.

(ii) The Faculties had completed staffing plans for non-instructional personnel.

(iii) Projects outlined in Concordia's applications to the Canadian Fund for Innovation (CFI), in three categories, had a total cost of about \$30 million. CFI would finance 40% of the cost of approved projects, the province would be obliged to furnish 40% and the University, 20%. Four projects were submitted in the new opportunities category (involving the hiring of faculty), and three projects were submitted in each of the institutional innovations categories, for projects valued under \$350,000. and over \$350,000.

9.2 The Vice-Rector, Services, Mr. Emond, reported that the Enrolment Management Team had completed Phase 1 of their project. Having mapped out the present state of enrolment management at Concordia, the Team concluded that the University should invest in a comprehensive Student Information System (SIS) as soon as possible. Mr. Emond said the acquisition would be expensive; Concordia was studying McGill's SIS which was compatible with the Management Information System the two universities had purchased jointly. The next phase of the Enrolment Management project would entail evaluating options for the future.

Approximately \$7 million had been pledged to improve and repair Concordia's infrastructure, on both campuses, over the next two years. Work would begin in June 1998.

Mr. Emond reported that, Concordia's *Plan Quinquenal* having been received in Quebec City, the Ministry sent two delegates to tour our facilities. The Vice-Rector observed that, after surveying the Loyola Campus, the officials appeared convinced of the urgency of investing there. A formal response to the *Plan* was expected in June, but additional discussions would likely be needed before any clear financial commitment would be forthcoming from the government.

9.3 Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations, and Secretary-General, Marcel Danis reported that the requests for intervenor status in the CSN Pension Plan suit, from Concordia's full-time faculty association (CUFA) and the association of retirees, were denied by the Superior Court. Prof. Danis said he had been informed that CUFA planned to appeal the decision; it was possible the pensioners would appeal as well.

On another subject, the Vice-Rector informed the Board that agreement in principle had been reached with the Continuing Education professors (CUCEPTFU). If ratified, the agreement would be in effect until 2001.

9.4 Chief Financial Officer Larry English waived his report. He said the budget would be

- presented to the Board for approval in June.
10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11. Any other business

Governor Lillian Vineberg encouraged Board members to buy tickets to the “ARTS-travaganza”, an event sponsored jointly by the Faculty of Fine Arts Advisory Board and the Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery. Tickets to the event (to be held on Wednesday, 10 June) were twenty dollars and all proceeds would be contributed to provide bursaries to Fine Arts students.

A Governor remarked that he had read an article in The Gazette about Concordia's collaboration with CIDA in Qua Qua, South Africa. He hoped the Board would hear more about that noteworthy project..

There was praise, also, for Ms. Aldworth (President of the Concordia Student Union), whose persistence and independence of mind had won the admiration of a faculty member.

The Chairman conveyed a request from the Chairs of the two search committees established at the April Board meeting (Drs. Lowy and Lightstone), who wished to be authorized to place advertisements, if necessary, without convening the search committees. Mr. Groome explained the reason for the request: deadlines for display advertisements in the relevant publications were very tight, and it could be extremely difficult to convene meetings in the University after 17 June, when the members would be elected. Two Governors objected that search committee members' role normally involves participation in the drafting of advertisements. It was argued that, by using electronic communications, the Chairs should be successful in soliciting the input and approval of committee members. Mr. Groome thanked the Governors for their views and said the Chairs would govern themselves accordingly.

12. Date of next meeting

The Chairman announced that the last meeting of the Board of this academic year will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 17 June 1998, in Room GM 407-1, on the SGW Campus.

13. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Amely Jurgenziemk, Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate, for approval by the Board at its meeting of 17 June 1998